

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER  
COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2713. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the funding of the support costs associated with the MH-60R helicopter mission avionics multi-year procurement program by the Future Years Defense Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2714. A communication from the Director of Defense and Research Engineering, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's intent to fund three additional Foreign Comparative Testing Program projects during fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2715. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Annual Report to Congress on the Biomass Research and Development Initiative for Fiscal Year 2006"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2716. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Gypsy Moth Generally Infested Areas; Addition of Counties in Ohio and West Virginia" (Docket No. APHIS-2006-0116) received on July 26, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2717. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" (72 FR 37115) received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2718. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" (72 FR 35938) received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2719. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" (72 FR 35937) received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2720. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" (72 FR 35932) received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2721. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" (72 FR 35934) received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2722. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, received on July

27, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2723. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Shareholder Choice Regarding Proxy Materials" (RIN3235-AJ79) received on July 26, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2724. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule to Limit the Daily Harvest of Halibut in the Guided Sport Charter Vessel Fishery for Halibut in Regulatory Area 2C" (RIN0648-AV47) received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2725. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2007 Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Recreational Fishery Management Measures" (RIN0648-AU60) received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2726. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Economic Exclusive Zone Off Alaska; Deep-Water Species Fishery by Catcher Processor Rockfish Cooperatives in the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XB12) received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2727. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nantucket Lightship Scallop Access Area Closure for General Category Scallop Vessels" (RIN0648-AU47) received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2728. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Eastern Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XB33) received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2729. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inseason Adjustments to Groundfish Management Measures" (RIN0648-AV69) received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2730. A communication from the Director, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the development of a training course for newly appointed Regional Fishery Management Council members; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2731. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Export Licensing Jurisdiction for Microelectronic Circuits" (RIN0694-AE02) received on July 26, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2732. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office

of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Attainment Determination, Redesignation of the Franklin County Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment and Approval of the Area's Maintenance Plan and 2002 Base Year Inventory" (FRL No. 8445-6) received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2733. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa" (FRL No. 8448-5) received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2734. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bromoxynil, Diclofop-methyl, Dicofol, Diquat, Etridiazole, et al.; Tolerance Actions" (FRL No. 8139-5) received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2735. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Quillaja Saponaria Extract; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8136-6) received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2736. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana" (FRL No. 8442-9) received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2737. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation of the Altoona's 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment and Approval of the Area's Maintenance Plan and 2002 Base Year Inventory" (FRL No. 8446-9) received on July 26, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2738. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation of the Johnstown Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment and Approval of the Area's Maintenance Plan and 2002 Base Year Inventory" (FRL No. 8442-7) received on July 26, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2739. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Clean Air Interstate Rule Nitrogen Oxides Annual Trading Program" (FRL No. 8446-3) received on July 26, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2740. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office

of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chlorthalonil; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 8127-9) received on July 26, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2741. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 8442-4) received on July 26, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2742. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rimsulfuron; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 8139-1) received on July 26, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2743. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Implementation Plan Revision; State of New Jersey" (FRL No. 8444-9) received on July 25, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2744. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Clarification of Visible Emissions Exceptions" (FRL No. 8447-6) received on July 25, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2745. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; States of Arizona and Nevada; Interstate Transport of Pollution" (FRL No. 8443-5) received on July 25, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2746. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partial Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule Revising the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 8444-3) received on July 25, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2747. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of New Jersey's Title V Operating Permit Program Revision" (FRL No. 8446-4) received on July 25, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2748. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the Interim Final Regulation for Mental Health Parity" (RIN0938-A083) received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2749. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "High Risk Pools" (RIN0938-A046) received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2750. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Weighted Average Interest Rate Update" (Notice 2007-61) received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2751. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to restrictions on assistance to the central government of Serbia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2752. A communication from the Director, Division for Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Veterans' Preference" (RIN3206-AL33) received on July 26, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2753. A communication from the Deputy White House Liaison, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, (31) reports relative to vacancy announcements within the Department, received on July 27, 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-173. A resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Miami Gardens, Florida, urging Congress to appropriate the funds necessary to bring the Herbert Hoover Dike into compliance with current levee protection safety standards; to the Committee on Appropriations.

POM-174. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to take such actions as are necessary to create a federal catastrophe fund; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

Whereas, the hurricane seasons of 2004 and 2005 were startling reminders of both the human and economic devastation that hurricanes, flooding, and other natural disasters can cause; and

Whereas, creation of a federal catastrophe fund is a comprehensive, integrated approach to help better prepare and protect the Nation from natural catastrophes, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, snowstorms, and earthquakes; and

Whereas, the current system of response to catastrophes leaves many people and businesses at risk of being unable to replace what they lost, wastes tax dollars, raises insurance premiums, and leads to shortages of insurance needed to sustain our economy; and

Whereas, creation of a federal catastrophe fund would help stabilize insurance markets following a catastrophe and help steady insurance costs for consumers while making it possible for private insurers to offer more insurance in catastrophe-prone areas; and

Whereas, a portion of the premiums collected by insurance companies could be deposited into such a fund which could be administered by the United States Treasury and grow tax free; and

Whereas, a portion of the interest earnings of the fund could be dedicated to emergency responder efforts and public education and mitigation programs; and

Whereas, the federal catastrophe fund would operate as a "backstop" and could only be accessed when private insurers and state catastrophe funds have paid losses in excess of a defined threshold; and

Whereas, utilizing the capacity of the Federal Government would help smooth out fluctuations consumers currently experience in insurance prices and availability because of exposure to large catastrophic losses and would provide better protection at a lower price; and

Whereas, when there is a gap between the insurance protection consumers buy and the damage caused by a major catastrophe, taxpayers across the country pay much of the difference, as congressional appropriations of billions of dollars for after-the-fact disaster relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina demonstrated; and

Whereas, there are a number of legislative instruments pending in the current One Hundred Tenth Congress which address the need for a federal catastrophe fund, including the Homeowners Protection Act of 2007 (H.R. 91) and the Commission on Catastrophic Disaster Risk an Insurance Act of 2007 (H.R. 537 and S. 292). Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to create a federal catastrophe fund. Be it further

Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-175. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to take such actions as are necessary to either extend the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act to include insurance coverage for natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes or, alternatively, to establish a tax incentive program for insurance companies that provide insurance coverage for such disasters; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 50

Whereas, as a result of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita to personal residential property, commercial residential property, and commercial property, Louisiana insureds, especially those located in the greater New Orleans area, are at risk with regard to the availability and affordability of personal residential property, commercial residential property, and commercial property insurance; and

Whereas, Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita have created a real threat to the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Louisiana, as well as to the rebuilding efforts of Louisiana citizens in the post-Katrina and Rita era; and

Whereas, Louisiana, as a state located on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, will continue to be at risk from the threat of hurricanes, further jeopardizing the availability and affordability of personal residential property, commercial residential property, and commercial property insurance. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to either extend the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) to include insurance coverage for natural disasters such as